

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the second full paragraph on page 8 with the following amended paragraph:

In order to help balance and control the tradeoff between self-correcting and steering effort associated with trailing skags 34, the carbide strips 42 in the present invention are moved forward with respect to the skags 34 (see Fig. 7). That is, even though the skags 34 are 60/40 trailing, the carbide strips 42 may be positioned 50/50 with respect to the centerpoint C. Thus, as shown in Fig. 7, the longitudinal centerpoint C' of the skags 34 is about 60/40 trailing with respect to the longitudinal centerpoint C of the carbide strips 42. Moving the carbide strips 42 forward in this manner reduces the amount of steering torque required to steer the ski. Thus, some of the steering torque increase resulting from a trailing skag is recovered by centering or even leading the carbide strip 42. Thus, preferably, the trailing/leading ratio of the dual skags 34 with respect to the longitudinal centerpoint C is greater than the trailing/leading ratio of the carbide strips 42 with respect to C. Stated differently, preferably the longitudinal centerpoint C (Fig. 7) of the carbide strips 42 is positioned forwardly of the longitudinal centerpoint C' (Fig. 7) of the skags 34 when the skag center is positioned rearward of the ~~runner~~ running surface center C.